High Court Bench in Thiruvananthapuram

718. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has requested for setting up of a High Court Bench in Thiruvananthapuram and whether it has been rejected by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government has assured to provide infrastructure facilities for setting up of the High Court Bench; and

(d) if so, whether such facilities have been arranged and initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) The proposal for setting up of a bench of the High Court is considered on receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. Though the Government of Kerala has requested for setting up a bench of the Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram, it has not sent a complete proposal in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court or given any assurance with regard to providing the necessary infrastructural facilities.

Royalty rates of Minerals

†719. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the date revision of the rates of royalty on lime, bauxite, iron ore and dolomite during the last ten years indicaing the dates of revision and the revised rate for each of the minerals;

(b) the norms/basis for revising the rates of royalty;

(c) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration for fixing the royalty on above minerals on the basis of certain percentage of their market prices;

(d) if so, whether the rates of royalty would be fixed on the basis of certain percentage of selling price of the minerals;

(e) if so, by when; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) During the last ten years, royalty rates of lime, bauxite, iron ore and dolomite have been revised thrice on 11.4.1997, 12.9.2000 and 14.10.2004. Rates of royalty of the minerals mentioned above in the last revision of the royalty rates on 14.10.2004 are mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Mineral	Rates of Royalty
1.	Bauxite	a) Zero point four zero percent of London Metal Exchange Aluminium metal price chargeable on the contained aluminium metal in ore produced for those despatched for use in alumina and aluminium metal extraction. b) Twenty percent of sale price on ad valorem basis for those despatched for use other than alumina and aluminium metal extraction and for export.
2.	Dolomite	Forty five rupees per tonne.
3.	**Iron ore**	
	(I) Lumps:	
	(a) with 65% Fe content or more	Twenty seven rupees per tonne.
	(b) with 62% Fe content or more but less than 65% Fe content	Sixteen rupees per tonne.
	(c) with less than 62% Fee content	Eleven rupees per tonne.
	(ii) Fines:	
	(a) With 65% Fe content or more	Nineteen rupees per tonne.
	(b) With 62% Fe content or more but less than 65% Fe content	Eleven rupees per tonne.
	(c) with less than 62% Fe content	Eight rupees per tonne.

Sl. No.	Mineral	Rates of Royalty
	(iii) Concentrates Prepared by benefication and/or concentration of low grade ore containing 40% Fe or less.	Four rupees per tonne.
4.	**Limestone**	
	(a) L.D. Grade (less than one and half% silica content)	Fifty five rupees per tonne.
	(b) Others	Forty five rupees per tonne.

(b) Conventionally, for revision of royalty rates of minerals other than fuel and minor minerals, a Study Group is constituted under the Chairpersonship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines, with representatives of major minerals producing States on rotational basis, concerned Central Ministries/Departments, India Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines and Federation of Indian Mineral Industries as memebrs. Comments of all stakeholders including State Governments are solicited. Considering all these inputs received from stakeholders, and in keeping with parity with the best international practice, royalty rates are recommended by the Study Group. Recommendations of the Study Group are examined in the Ministry of Mines and after obtaining the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, revised rates of royalty are notified.

(c) to (f) As recommended by the Study Group, royalty rates of limestone, iron ore and dolomite have been fixed on tonnage basis and royalty rate of bauxite has been fixed on ad valorem basis.

As per proviso to Section 9 of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act 1957, the Central Government shall not enhance rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. As such generally the Study Group for revision of rates of royalty are appointed just before completion of three year from last revision of rates of royalty and any suggestion regarding fixation of rates of royalty for above mentioned minerals on the basis of selling price of such minerals can be considered by the next Study Group constituted for the purpose in consultation with all the stakeholders as explained in reply to part-(b) of the Question.